YUKON

HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

COUNCIL

2011 - 2012
ANNUAL REPORT

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MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

"The Health and Social Services Council shall, no later than June 30 of each year, provide the Minister with an annual report containing a summary of its activities, deliberations, and recommendations during the preceding year. On receiving the report, the Minister shall lay a copy of it before the Legislative Assembly during the session then in progress or the next session". S.31, Health Act, (Yukon)

This annual report outlines activities undertaken by the Health and Social Services Council (the Council) in 2011-2012 in its efforts to meet its legislated mandate in working collaboratively with interest groups, agencies, government and the public at large to improve the health of Yukoners.

The assistance and dedication of all the members of this Council and to those who supported the Council in its work is appreciated. Thank you to all of you.

Sincerely,

Kevin McDonnell
Chair

SUMMARY OF COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

During 2011 – 2012 the Council held a 2 day meeting on June 17 and 18 in Watson Lake. It toured the existing Watson Lake hospital. It also held an open house in Watson Lake to solicit public input on health and social issues. Council did not hold its usual fall meeting in order to allow for stakeholders to focus on the territorial election. During this annual report period council member Max Rispin participated in the Health and Social Services Aging Well Strategy Community Reference Group. A summary of its deliberations during its meetings follows.

DELIBERATIONS

The Council received an update from the Department of Health and Social Services on its strategic and business planning processes and related documents. The Council feels it is important to be aware of Departmental priorities in order to identify opportunities where it may provide recommendations to improve programs. It also wishes to make sure any work it is doing is informed by the work of the Department.

Staff from the Department of Health and Social Services briefed the Council on the Social Inclusion Strategy Initiatives & Priorities. Council will continue to monitor progress on this initiative to identify opportunities for Council to provide input.

Council is concerned about the sustainability of health care. Council recognizes this is a complex and sensitive issue especially when it comes to increasing health care fees. It discussed its concern with the Department of Health and Social Services in order to understand how government is approaching the issue. Council learned that government has been working on this issue and hired consultants to recommend actions to improve sustainability, among the other things it is doing.

Council considered a presentation from Department of Health and Social Services staff on the Wellness Initiative it is working on. Council will be further engaged once government makes a decision on whether to proceed with developing a wellness strategy.

Council received a presentation on the new Watson Lake Hospital and Health Care facility. Council noted an issue to investigate is whether it is more cost effective and better for the mothers to deliver babies in the new rural hospitals than sending them to Whitehorse. Council planned to follow up on this issue with the Hospital Corporation at the next Council meeting.

Council held an open house at the Y cabin in Watson Lake from 6:30 pm to 9:30 pm on June 17, 2011. The purpose of the open house was to inform the public of the role of the Council as well as hear about public concerns on health and social issues. There was low public participation despite newspaper advertisements. Council discussed the lack of public participation and generated ideas for increasing public awareness and participation at future open houses. A member of the public raised an issue regarding need for long term care facilities in Watson Lake. Council discussed the issue and noted that this issue was part of the bigger issue of sustainability due to the resources required for such facilities. Council did not have a recommendation but noted the need to continue to assess the issue.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT 2011 - 2012
AS TO MARCH 31, 2012

YUKON HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES COUNCIL

BUDGET:		$40,000.00
EXPENDITURES		
Honoraria	$ 5,000.00	
Travel Costs	$ 2361.36	
Meeting Expenses	$ 3532.46	
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	$ 11393.82	

COUNCIL MEMBERSHIP DURING 2011 - 2012

- Kevin McDonnell – Chair
- Doug Kearns
- Marie Cox
- Marie Martin
- Maxwell Rispin
- Michael Nixon
- Peter Morawsky

CONTACT INFORMATION

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